

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE COMINT
 CHARGE TO

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ALGIERS

Oct 24

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Statements ~~attributed to Ben Bella~~ in Polit Bureau communique as reported by AFP from Algiers today (Oct 24), indicate Algerians adopting initial position re Cuban crisis inconsistent with declared non-alignment position.

Request you seek early opportunity see Prime Minister and in clearest terms review US position this grave issue, drawing upon material all previous messages including particularly statements President and Secretary. In view understanding Ben Bella and officials displayed of US position on Cuba while in Washington and expressed desire assist in lessening tensions Cuban problem, we are concerned by statements attributed Algerian Polit Bureau and FLN newspaper characterizing US position as aggression against Cuba designed to destroy Cuban regime and dictate internal policies Cuba. We would appreciate opportunity have Ben Bella's views and discuss directly with him problem we face and evidence we presented his representatives in Washington re Soviet arms build-up in Cuba.

US Govt has difficulty reconciling Algerian presentations of issue and attacks of nature indicated with friendly ~~and~~ relationship we had hoped was developing and which relationship allowed for honest differences and US in

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understanding for sincere Algerian non-alignment policy. We sincerely hope statements as reported do not RPT not represent official conclusion of Govt of Algeria on this critical issue.

We would appreciate report re possible Algerian interdiction transit Soviet planes (Deptel 726).

FYI In order assist proper evaluation Algerian position re Cuba, request Embassy comments urgently elements and pressures which may be influencing developing Algerian public position on Cuba which appears difficult explain away entirely as simply ill-informed sentimental affinity for Cuban revolution and/minimal Cuban aid and political support for Algerian revolution.

RUSK

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